United Nations S/2016/749

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 August 2016
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 29 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to apprise you of the heinous, bloody massacre of innocent civilians committed by the Turkish Army in the north of the Syrian Arab Republic on Sunday, 28 August 2016.

The air force and artillery of the Turkish Army, in coordination with its armed terrorist organization proxies, indiscriminately bombed the villages of Jubb al-Kusa and Amarinah, south of the city of Jarabulus in Aleppo governorate. The resulting massacre claimed the lives of 35 Syrian civilians, 20 of them in Jubb al-Kusa and the other 15 in Amarinah, and injured dozens more. Public and private property, infrastructure and services in the villages were extensively damaged.

The violations, attacks and massacres committed by the Turkish regime during its incursion into Syrian territory fall foul of all moral and legal standards. They amount to criminal aggression and crimes against humanity in the fullest sense. Some of those crimes were perpetrated directly by the Erdoğan regime, acting through the Turkish Army and its numerous branches. We have addressed those crimes in detail in previous letters. Others were carried out indirectly by terrorist proxies and collaborators acting on the regime's orders. Those actors include the so-called Free Army, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front (which recently took on a new guise, calling itself the Front for the Conquest of the Levant), Ahrar al-Sham, the Nur al-Din Zanki movement, Liwa' al-Tawhid, the Badr Martyrs Brigade, the Emigrants Brigade, the Islamic Front and the Western Turkestan organization. In yet other cases, the Erdoğan regime facilitated those crimes by providing the terrorist organizations with financial and logistical support, including various types of sophisticated weapons and ammunition and mercenaries from more than 100 countries. On 28 August 2016, the Turkish media reported that, in the previous few days alone, the Turkish regime had allowed over 3,000 terrorists across the Syrian-Turkish border to join the terrorists and organizations that are killing our people in Aleppo.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns in the strongest terms the recurring crimes, violations, attacks and massacres to which the Ankara regime has, for over five years, subjected the Syrian people and the integrity, unity and sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic. Syria calls on the members of the Security Council to condemn these cowardly crimes, exercise all due pressure and take

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effective measures to ensure that the Erdoğan regime comes to its senses and desists from sponsoring terrorism as a means of interfering in Syria's internal affairs. The Turkish regime made a show of entering Jarabulus but did not fire a single bullet at ISIL. Rather, ISIL joined the ranks of the Turkish Army and its terrorist allies as they entered the town, proving that the regime is working with ISIL and other terrorist groups. The Turkish regime states that ISIL has left Jarabulus. In actual fact, terrorist groups allied with the Turkish regime are being introduced into the city, substituting one form of terrorism for another. The United Nations and the international community should not be fooled.

By continuing to provide various forms of support to the Turkish regime, France, the United States of America, Britain, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar are explicitly supporting terrorism, not only in Syria but in all countries of the world. Those countries, along with the Turkish regime, are complicit in the killing of innocent people in Aleppo, Damascus, Jarabulus, Paris, Lyon, Brussels and Berlin. The fact of the matter is that terrorism is terrorism, and it has no religion, homeland or nationality.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that any party combating terrorism in Syrian territory must do so in complete coordination with the Syrian Government and the Syrian Arab Army, which has been bravely and tenaciously engaged in this struggle for more than five years. The Syrian Government will not falter in its duty to combat terrorism and to work towards a political solution to the crisis in Syria through dialogue among Syrians, without foreign interference or preconditions, putting a decisive end to terrorism in Syria.

The Syrian Government calls on the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to maintain international peace and security and to demand that Turkey withdraw immediately from Syrian territory, respect Syria's sovereignty and the unity of its territory and people, discontinue its support for terrorist groups operating under various names, completely close its borders with Syria in accordance with the authoritative international resolutions and the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council resolutions, and commit to implementing those resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative